[Sri. A. J. John]

respect of the nationalised bus routes is proposed to be debited to "Transport Working Expenses" instead of to "Civil Works".

Revenue Expenditure

23. Turning to the expenditure side, provision has been made only for those items of new expenditure which are unavoidable and are likely to be immediately remunerative. The expenditure on account of travelling allowance and contingencies has also been scrutinised with great care and very substantial cuts have been made.

24. In this connection the House will be interested to know that out of the gross expenditure of Rs. 1,491·32 lakhs provided in the Budget, nearly 20 per cent, or Rs. 268·48 lakhs is in respect of obligatory expenditure like interest, pensions, fixed contribution to Devaswams and Sreepandaravagai Fund allowances to members of the Ruling Families of Travancore and Cochin, and Sinking Fund Investments. In addition a sum of Rs. 9·45 lakhs is charged to the revenue for payment of allowances to the Rajpramukh, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, and Salaries to the Judges of the High Court and Members of the Public Service Commission. The expenditure covered by standing sanctions for the payment of salaries and allowances to officers of Government and expenditure under T. A. and Contingencies accounts for another Rs. 5 crores nearly. These items are not capable of reduction to any appreciable extent and have to be met in any case. The total of the obligatory charged and sanctioned expenditure is about Rs. 8 crores which leaves only about Rs. 7 crores for nation-building activities. It is with this background that the budget estimate for the coming year has to be considered.

With these preliminary remarks, I shall now pass on to the detailed analysis of the important items of expenditure.

25. In respect of expenditure on existing services in administrative departments, including law and order, no special allotments have been made. In view, however, of the transfer of Military to the Centre, the police force required for internal security has to be strengthened. A lump sum provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made for this purpose.

Development Schemes

FOOD SUPPLIES AND GROW MORE FOOD

26. The most anixious problem which the Government have to face is that of providing adequate supplies of food to the people at reasonable prices. In normal years the State is deficit in its food production by about 50 per cent. of its requirements and during this year the food shortage was accentuated by natural calamities like the failure of the monsoon and the breaching of the bunds in the Kuttanad reclamation areas. The food situation in the coming year is expected to be very difficult. For the year 1951 we have been allotted 325,000 tons of food grains as against our over-all requirement of about 478,000 tons. On account of the difficult food position in the country as a whole, the over-all ration throughout the Union has been reduced by 25 per cent. and fixed at 9 oz. per adult. Accordingly the composition of the ration in the State has been fixed at 7 oz. rice and 2 oz. wheat and other grains. We have made strong representations to the Centre to allot more food grains to the State, but there is no immediate prospect of securing additional supplies. It is hoped that the stock position in the Union may improve after April and we are assured that our request for more foodgrains will then be favourably considered. In the meantime, Government are endeavouring their utmost to augment the production of food in the country.

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27. The various "Grow More Food Schemes" which we have undertaken are progressing satisfactorily and have begun to yield good results. The reclamation of land for extensive cultivation, the harnessing of the rivers for irrigation purposes and the application of improved methods of agriculture, are some of the main items in our Grow More Food programme. By means of Lift Irrigation schemes we have already succeeded in converting vast areas of single-crop lands into double crop lands. The total provision for food production schemes in the budget for 1951—52 is well over Rs. 1·5 crores. This includes Rs. 4·65 lakhs for the Vandanmettu Land Reclamation Scheme, Rs. 10 lakhs for the Neyyar Project, Rs. 15 lakhs for the Vembanad Tidal Bund and Spillway, Rs. 38·05 lakhs for minor irrigation works, Rs. 29·26 lakhs for intensive manuring, Rs. 6·13 lakhs for Punja cultivation, Rs. 7·53 lakhs for extension of electric lines to the Kuttanad and kole areas, and Rs. 4 lakhs for well-sinking and tank improvement schemes.

Education

28. In the field of education this State has always been ahead of the rest of India and we are maintaining steady progress in increasing the educational facilities available to the people. The Education Budget provides for Rs. 331·95 lakhs for ordinary expenditure besides Rs. 9 lakhs for construction of buildings under P.W.D., making a total of about Rs. 341 lakhs, which is nearly 25 per cent of the total revenue of the State. This includes provision for the extension of Compulsory Primary Education to two more taluks, namely, Shencottah and Chittoor, organisation of basic education at Cherpu, introduction of Mathematics and Economics Honours Courses in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, revival of the Training College at Trichur and implementing the scheme relating to private Secondary Schools. A provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made for the opening of a Polytechnic Institute in the State.

29. Government have also fixed a block grant of Rs. 25 lakhs for the University against Rs. 21 lakhs for the current year.

30. The library movement is steadily becoming more and more popular with the help of liberal grants made by the Government to rural libraries whose control and supervision are being allowed gradually to pass into the hands of popular and democratic bodies, like the Travancore-Cochin Library Association. The Adult Education Scheme is also progressing satisfactorily and an adult education centre was recently opened in Trivandrum.

Medical and Public Health

31. The Government are fully alive to their primary duty of providing medical relief to the people, and increasing provision is being made in the budget, year after year, for carrying out measures for protecting the health of the people, and for preventing the out-break of epidemics. In the Budget for 1948—49 a provision of Rs. 82·82 lakhs was made for the Medical and Public Health Departments. This was increased to Rs. 119·71 lakhs in 1950-51 and for the next year the expenditure is fixed at Rs. 135·24 lakhs.

32. At the beginning of the current financial year the total number of medical institutions in the State was 190. Seven new dispensaries were opened since and two more dispensaries will be opened shortly at Parakadavu and Samboorvadakara. A provision of Rs. 1 lakh is made in the next year's budget for new dispensaries. An expenditure of Rs. 3 lakhs in addition to the provision of nearly Rs. 11 lakhs was incurred during the current year for improving the diet given to patients. Formerly there was no provision for giving diet to in-patients in the dispensaries in Travancore area. It has now been decided to supply rice at the rate of 10 oz. per day to the in-patients free of charge, the arrangements for cooking being made by the patients themselves; This arrangement will afford great relief to the poor patients

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